

Garden Bird Survey – Bulletin 6

A VERY warm welcome to our June survey update. This week's weather has certainly kept our garden birds a bit subdued, staying out of the daytime heat and making the most of the shady planting we have around the wildlife pond. Although, I was interested to see in an [RSPB article](#) that "An acclimatised, well-hydrated pigeon, for example, can cope with a temperature of 60°C". They are doing rather better than I am!

Thank you to everyone that submitted their bird figures for June. Those that weren't able to this time, please do join in for our winter count in November, all the data is welcome and useful.

As before, this is just a few quick highlights, and a more in-depth analysis will be shared when we have enough to be meaningful.

I think our top highlight this month must be the fledgling Cuckoo spotted being fed by Dunnocks in a garden in Small Dole.



Many thanks Richard and Alex for sharing your picture.

Mike and Lesley come a close second with a juvenile Goldcrest that decided to have a tour round the inside of their house. Makes birding very easy if you don't even have to look out of the window! It eventually left none the worse for its adventure, but hopefully having learned its lesson.

As not all species fledge at the same time, they won't necessarily have been seen in the survey period. Many swifts didn't even turn up until after the survey! Please don't forget if you do have nesting swifts, or just want to share sightings of them, please let Swift Project Leader Debbie know by e-mailing henfieldswifts@henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk.

Numbers wise, 65% of respondents have seen fledging blue tits, often in large groups. We've also got lots of reports of starlings, blackbirds and house sparrows too. Nothing too surprising there. Only 3 young robins, 1 wood pigeon and 1 collared dove reported, which seems quite low. Has the early warm weather has meant repeat breeders have got off to a flying start this year and they were between broods during the survey? We'll look at this data and previous breeding bird surveys and report back.

We did have 3 separate reports of pairs of young Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Looking at the locations it's probably only 2 broods, but still lovely to see our HBW logo bird doing well. Although this one is looking decidedly unhappy!



Ok that's it for the June quick highlights. We'll get another bulletin out during the summer with the count information. Thanks again for taking part!

PS – don't forget you can always get in touch or send us your photos by e-mailing us at contactus@henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk